

# The use of children in pornography in South Africa

A Research Project for the Film & Publications Board.

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# **Outline**

- 1. The aims of the study**
- 2. How it was done**
- 3. Key findings**
- 4. Key recommendations**

# **The aims of the study**

- 1. Assess: the extent of *manufacturing and distribution of child pornography (child abuse images)* in South Africa (including the use of *South African children*).**
- 2. Specify: the number of *reported child pornography cases* in South Africa; cases that went to court, prosecution and sentencing patterns.**
- 3. Establish: Profiles of children most at risk of being involved in the production of pornographic images and being exposed to risks of sexual abuse on media such as the internet and mobile telephones.**
- 4. Establish: Profiles of perpetrators who *manufacture / use / share child abuse images; use internet / mobile telephones for online abuse and predatory behaviour.***

# **How the study was done**

- 1. Desk reviews: scientific, grey literature, and sources on the internet.**
- 2. Extensive interviews with members of the South African Police Service (SAPS), the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) Child Protection Organisations (CPOs); & Internet Service Providers (ISPs).**
- 3. A round table consultation with specialised staff:**
  - the UK Police (Paedophile & Hi Tech Units);**
  - the John Grieve Centre (UK) who specialise in the prevention, detection and prosecution of online child sexual abuse;**
  - The Film and Publications Board (FPB);**
  - The organisations listed in 2 above.**

# **Key Findings**

- 1. As the phenomenon of internet child sexual abuse is relatively recent, research literature is very limited.**
- 2. There was no South African research on the issue prior to this report.**

# **Key Findings**

- 1. Use of South African children in the making of child abuse images:**
  - There is no data on the extent of this phenomenon.**
- 2. Extent of manufacturing and distribution of child abuse images in South Africa:**
  - There is no data on this question; sources are most likely to be foreign.**
  - There are likely to be more than 1 Million child abuse images on the internet, normally provided for a fee and for exchange in paedophile groups.**

# **Key Findings**

- 3. The number of reported child pornography cases in South Africa:**
  - There is very limited data. These cases are not captured separately by the police or NPA and are not aggregated for national or provincial level statistics.
  - Informants suggest that less than 20 cases of persons possessing, distributing or manufacturing child abuse images have been investigated in South Africa in the past five years. This information cannot be validated
  - Where such images have been seized in investigations, they are almost always of foreign origin.

# **Key Findings**

- 4. Profiles of children vulnerable to manufacture of abuse images:**
  - **There is no South African data.**
  - **Internationally there is no profile.**
  - **Some indication that children most likely to be involved in the creation of these images are those who have formed an established relationship with an abuser, as well as those who are not under adult supervision (e.g. children on the streets).**



# **Key Findings**

- 4. Profiles of children vulnerable to internet and cell phone abuse:**
- **There is no South African data.**
  - **All children with access to mobile phones and the internet, are potentially vulnerable;**
  - **But: A very small proportion of SA children is likely to have an internet connection at home;**
  - **Schools are increasingly obtaining this technology so the risk of exposure will increase if appropriate supervision and software filtering are not in place.**

***Note: far more children are likely to be subject to sexual abuse without the use of electronic media.***

# **Key Findings**

5. Profiles of persons who use and share child abuse images, manufacture such images, and use internet and mobile telephones for online abuse:
  - There is no clear offender profile; they often have adult sexual partners; they are very good at establishing relationships with children; they are not likely to be homosexual.
  - Some may fit the clinical criteria for Paedophilia (sexually attracted to prepubescent children);
    - their behaviour is resistant to change;
    - they use cognitive distortions to rationalise their behaviour (claim it is normal; children like it etc).

# ***Key Recommendations***

## **6. Policing:**

- **highly *specialised* skills are required including in-depth IT knowledge, as well as the behaviour of online abusers;**
- **specialised child protection units are *essential* for successful investigation and prosecution;**
- **SA has low skill base: suggestion: collaborate with the Paedophile, Hi Tech Crime and Intelligence Units of the Metropolitan Police (UK).**

# **Key Recommendations**

## **7. Prosecution:**

- must be specialised to ensure successful prosecution;**
- require evidence to be sealed and then destroyed after the case has been concluded; hard drives should be kept for a period, but under strict security, to allow for court appeals;**
- child pornography case statistics must be separated from other offences to assess their scale.**

# **Key Recommendations**

## **7. Prosecution:**

- SA child pornography legislation should consider incorporating the COPINE (Combating Paedophile Information Networks in Europe) classification system of child sexual abuse images.**
- the different categories are ranked according to “seriousness”**
- judges can refer to these classifications when sentencing.**

# **Key Recommendations**

- 8. Internet service providers and cell phone distributors should:**
  - be required to take more active responsibility in combating child sexual abuse images in cyberspace;**
  - establish an internet monitoring system (e.g. the Internet Watch Foundation in the UK) to monitor and remove child abuse image content, close sites, suspend services to the customer, and report to the authorities.**
  - develop tools to identify and prevent the distribution of child abuse images (e.g. the initiative in the United States under the leadership of the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children).**

# **Key Recommendations**

- 8. Internet service providers and cell phone distributors:**
  - should make it best practice to refer clients who download and/or distribute child abuse images to the authorities for investigation;**
  - consideration should be given to making it a legal responsibility for ISPs to report sites that contain child abuse images and those who access them;**
  - preservation of ISP records aids in prosecution.**

# **Key Recommendations**

- 9. Sales of computers, phones and Internet Services:**
  - all computers and mobile telephones should be supplied with information packs on the risks of exposure to child abuse through these media.**
  - simple guidance on filtering software must also be provided.**



# **Key Recommendations**

## **10. Awareness of caregivers and educators:**

- enhance awareness of the problem of exposure of children to child abuse on the internet and mobile phones.**
- disseminate prevention strategies to parents, teachers and children.**
- educate caregivers and teachers need about the technology children use.**
- all computers used in the home and the school, as well as mobile telephones used by children should have filtering software installed.**

# **Key Recommendations**

- 11. Child Protection Organisations (CPOs):**
- **can contribute to enhanced awareness of the problem;**
  - **provide psychological support for victims and also for policemen and women and prosecutors working in this challenging field.**
  - ***only* where the expert skills are available, some CPOs may provide intensive rehabilitation for offenders.**